

Possible Questions at Confirmation Hearing

(The following questions may be raised as a result of the Second Hoover Commission Task Force Report on Intelligence, which touched on these subjects.)

1. Does the DCI intend to establish an executive officer or chief of staff to relieve himself of some of his burdensome duties?

Answer: We are now studying the over-all organization of the CIA with the view toward determining how best to relieve the DCI of some of his duties in order that he can devote a large proportion of his time to coordinating intelligence activities. The DDCI has already been designated as the chief executive officer of CIA and will carry the burden of running the Agency.

2. Is CIA too much in the public eye?

Answer: Yes. We are now following a policy of as few public appearances as possible.

3. Should greater use be made of retired military personnel?

Answer: Under the present compensation laws it is very difficult to persuade retired military personnel to work for the Government at what is basically a very small amount over their retirement pay. We would like to make as great a use as possible of retired military personnel, provided of course that it did not adversely affect our career service by giving any impression that retired military personnel were favored over career employees for key slots.

4. Is there a periodic security review of employees?

Answer: Yes. Every time an employee is promoted or transferred the Security Office reviews his file. Further, if an employee's file is not reviewed within a five-year period, then a tickler indicates that a review is needed. In addition, we have a Security Research Staff that is constantly reviewing all types of security cases to determine whether there is any relationship to any CIA employee.

5. What should be the level of salary for the DCI and DDCI?

Answer: In my opinion the salary level for the DCI and DDCI should be placed in the same category as the level of federal officials with whom they work; e.g., the DCI deals with the Secretaries of State and Defense and the DDCI with the deputy and under secretary level.

(The following are questions which are based upon previous hearings and the questions generally asked about CIA.)

1. Why does CIA have so many people in Washington (Headquarters)?

Answer: Most people do not realize that the Washington Headquarters has a very large research organization in addition to the personnel supporting our overseas activities. We are constantly endeavoring to keep our Washington staff to a minimum.

2. Should CIA have responsibility for Cuba-type operations?

Answer: It is fairly obvious that the Cuba operation grew to such a scale that there was very little possibility of keeping it truly covert. In the future, such a large operation should probably be handled by the Pentagon.

3. Are there any plans for reorganization of CIA?

Answer: The organization of CIA is now under study.

4. What are Mr. McCone's views on a Joint Congressional Committee for Intelligence Activities to serve as a watch-dog over CIA?

Answer: This is a matter for Congress to decide. We would note the established subcommittees in both Appropriations and Armed Services in both the House and the Senate.

5. Is it planned to expand the size of the Agency or will it be significantly reduced in size?

Answer: The size of the Agency is directly dependent upon the requirements placed on it. It would be difficult to give any categorical answer as to its future size other than to say that we will endeavor to have it as economical and efficient as possible.

6. Since all Agency people will not fit into the new building at Langley, what are the plans if any for a supplemental building?

Answer: Plans for the employees who will not be located in the building at Langley are dependent to a large degree upon what we decide about the future organization of the Agency.

7. Is the proposed level of spending for the Agency adequate and are any significant increases or decreases contemplated?

Answer: The level of spending likewise depends upon the organization of the Agency and the demands upon it. We would be foolish to try and predict this too far in advance inasmuch as world developments will drastically affect it.

8. In other countries responsibility for collection of intelligence is divorced from responsibility for covert political and paramilitary activities. Should these two functions be divorced in the U.S. scheme?

Answer: This subject is under study. However, I would point out that any activity which calls for the use of clandestine or covert personnel should be centrally handled.

9. Are there any legislative proposals to strengthen the personnel structure and the career concept?

Answer: We have drafted certain legislative proposals to enable us to make use of the authorizations given to the Foreign Service. In addition, as many of you know, we have had under consideration for several years possible legislation in order to permit us to retire personnel in our clandestine service at an earlier date than is permissible under the Civil Service. This would enable us to maintain a young service without penalizing those who have served long and faithfully, but through no fault of their own have entered a phase of their career in which they are progressively less valuable.

10. What legislation is desirable in the security field with respect to leaks of information or otherwise?

Answer: It is my opinion that legislation in the security field should be strengthened in order to give the Government greater control over security information. I recognize that this would have to be most carefully considered in order not to infringe upon the freedom of speech or the press.

11. Should the DCI make speeches to private groups either public or off the record?

Answer: It will be my policy to avoid any public speeches.

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12. Does the DCI need any further statutory authority to enable him to do his job more effectively?

Answer: No. At this moment we do not believe any further statutory authority is necessary.

13. Does the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board fulfill its purpose?

Answer: Yes. This Board has been very useful in assisting the President in reviewing the activities of the intelligence agencies.

14. The present law allows two civilians to fulfill the top two jobs in CIA, but does not allow more than one military officer in these two jobs. Is this satisfactory?

Answer: The present law appears satisfactory.

15. Does the present system of estimates tend to water down the product?

Answer: Among the subjects currently under review is the entire system of estimates, [and one of the aspects that I plan to study is whether estimates are "watered down".]

16. Does CIA play too much of a role in policy formulation?

Answer: It is difficult to completely separate intelligence from policy, although I can assure the committee that we endeavor to avoid to the best possible degree influencing policy.

17. Are the covert projects of CIA sufficiently coordinated with other agencies particularly the Department of State and the Department of Defense?

Answer: There is at present a special group reporting to the President which meets weekly to review all covert activities of CIA. In addition, the Departments of State and Defense both have staffs to coordinate these projects on the working level.

18. Has CIA ever been penetrated by Communist agents?

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Answer: This is a difficult question to answer inasmuch as we would have to establish positively by confession that an individual was a Communist agent. I am advised that the Agency has terminated individuals as security risks who were suspected of being Communist agents, and about whom there was sufficient evidence of association with Communists. These individuals, however, never admitted their associations. In each case, however, the loyalty and security boards ruled against them.

19. Does CIA devote an adequate proportion of its effort to foreign intelligence activities?

Answer: This question also is under review.

20. Is it appropriate for the CIA to engage in such projects as that of the U-2 which would seem more the function of the Air Force?

Answer: The committee should understand that the U-2 project was very closely coordinated with the Air Force and that they participated in it to a large degree. In all such activities we work very closely with the Pentagon.

21. Is CIA under pressure from either or both the State Department and the Defense Department to tailor estimates either to conform to policy or budget considerations?

Answer: No. While these departments may hold positions or views most strongly, the estimating policies place such a premium upon the factual intelligence available that there is a reasonable guarantee against departmental views being too prominent in a national estimate.

22. Is the CIA under pressure from either the State or Defense Department to undertake special projects?

Answer: The group referred to above for reviewing covert operations would be the mechanism for studying such requests.